

HOW TO TASTE BOURBON



1

APPEARANCE / COLOR

Pour a small amount of Bourbon (an ounce or two at most) and take note of its color. The hue offers clues about the Bourbon's age. Younger spirits are usually lighter tones of amber, with deeper, richer browns indicating a Bourbon that's older. Color can also be influenced by proof, level of char—and believe it or not—the weather that took place as the Bourbon aged.



2

NOSE / AROMA

Your sense of smell is 10,000 times more sensitive than your sense of taste, so nosing Kentucky Bourbon is a must. Swirl the Bourbon so it coats your glass, then wait a second for the alcohol vapor to leave. Allow the aromas to rise to your nose above the rim, and inhale slowly. Let the smell come to you. And don't be afraid to sniff more than once—the Bourbon's nose changes with each whiff.



3



4

FLAVOR / TASTE

Take a small sip and swirl it around your mouth, leaving your lips slightly parted. Swish and roll the Bourbon around your tongue—and don't miss a single taste bud! This important step—or as we like to call it, the “Kentucky Chew”—acclimates your nerves to the alcohol so the true flavor can come through. Look beyond the alcohol and notice what you taste.

FINISH

The finish refers to the sensations you feel after you've swallowed the Bourbon. Did it linger for a while? That's a long finish. Did it disappear quickly? That's a short finish. Did any hidden flavors surface after it went down? Did you feel an unmistakable warmth after the Bourbon left your mouth? We call that a “Kentucky Hug,” and it's a feeling you won't forget.



FLAVOR NOTES

Don't let the cornucopia of flavors intimidate you.
With a little practice, you'll be tasting Kentucky
Bourbon like a pro in no time.

Use this list to track what flavors you taste along the way:

BREAD/YEAST

- CORNBREAD
- CORNMEAL
- GRAINS
- CEREAL
- OATS
- DOUGH
- BREAD

FRUITY

- APPLE
- BANANA
- BERRIES
- CITRUS
- PEAR
- GRAPE
- CHERRY

SPICES

- PEPPERCORN
- CAYENNE
- CINNAMON
- FENNEL
- GINGER
- LICORICE
- NUTMEG

SUGAR/SWEET

- BUTTERSCHOTCH
- CARAMEL
- CHOCOLATE
- HONEY
- MAPLE
- MARSHMALLOW
- VANILLA

FLORAL

- POTPOURRI
- HIBISCUS
- GERANIUM
- HONEYSUCKLE
- LAVENDER
- LILAC
- ROSE

HERBAL

- BLACK TEA
- CELERY
- MINT
- PARSLEY
- ROSEMARY
- SAGE
- TOBACCO

EARTHY

- CORN HUSK
- EGG
- GRASS
- LEATHER
- LEAVES
- MUSHROOMS
- COOKED VEGGIES

NUTTY

- ALMOND
- COCONUT
- COFFEE
- HAZELNUT
- MACADAMIA
- PECAN
- WALNUT

WOODY

- NEW OAK
- TOASTED OAK
- CEDAR
- PINE
- HICKORY
- WALNUT
- WOOD SMOKE


Inspired by "Which Fork Do I Use With My Bourbon"

TASTING WORKSHEET

BOURBON AGE

DISTILLERY PROOF

DATE LOCATION

SENSORY COMPONENTS		<input type="checkbox"/> WHEATED	<input type="checkbox"/> RYE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		
						
MAHOGANY	CARAMEL	AMBER	GOLD	HONEY	STRAW	CLEAR
BREAD <input type="checkbox"/> CORNMEAL <input type="checkbox"/> CEREAL <input type="checkbox"/> GRAINS <input type="checkbox"/> TOAST <input type="checkbox"/> DOUGH <input type="checkbox"/> OATS	SPICES <input type="checkbox"/> CAYENNE <input type="checkbox"/> CINNAMON <input type="checkbox"/> FENNEL <input type="checkbox"/> GINGER <input type="checkbox"/> LICORICE <input type="checkbox"/> NUTMEG	FLORAL <input type="checkbox"/> POTPOURRI <input type="checkbox"/> HIBISCUS <input type="checkbox"/> GERANIUM <input type="checkbox"/> LAVENDER <input type="checkbox"/> LILAC <input type="checkbox"/> ROSE	EARTHY <input type="checkbox"/> CORN HUSK <input type="checkbox"/> EGG <input type="checkbox"/> GRASS <input type="checkbox"/> LEATHER <input type="checkbox"/> LEAVES <input type="checkbox"/> MUSHROOMS	WOODY <input type="checkbox"/> OAK <input type="checkbox"/> CEDAR <input type="checkbox"/> PINE <input type="checkbox"/> HICKORY <input type="checkbox"/> WALNUT <input type="checkbox"/> SMOKED WOOD		
FRUITY <input type="checkbox"/> APPLE <input type="checkbox"/> BANANA <input type="checkbox"/> BERRIES <input type="checkbox"/> CITRUS <input type="checkbox"/> PEAR <input type="checkbox"/> CHERRY	SWEET <input type="checkbox"/> CARAMEL <input type="checkbox"/> CHOCOLATE <input type="checkbox"/> HONEY <input type="checkbox"/> MAPLE <input type="checkbox"/> VANILLA <input type="checkbox"/> MARSHMALLOW	HERBAL <input type="checkbox"/> CELERY <input type="checkbox"/> MINT <input type="checkbox"/> PARSLEY <input type="checkbox"/> ROSEMARY <input type="checkbox"/> SAGE <input type="checkbox"/> TOBACCO	NUTTY <input type="checkbox"/> ALMOND <input type="checkbox"/> COCONUT <input type="checkbox"/> COFFEE <input type="checkbox"/> HAZELNUT <input type="checkbox"/> PECAN <input type="checkbox"/> WALNUT			

OBSERVATIONS

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EVALUATION

RATING ☆☆☆☆☆



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OBSERVATIONS
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EVALUATION	RATING
	☆☆☆☆☆